

**FY11- Labor, HHS, Education
Congressman Ortiz**

AVANCE Parent-Child Education Program

When communities engage parents in the AVANCE Parent-Child Education Program they begin to close the achievement gap for vulnerable children. This two-generation approach offers parents the knowledge, skills, tools, and support poor vulnerable families need to successfully become active participants promoting their child's academic achievement, while their children experience an environment which emphasizes language development, learning of basic concepts and skills, and social competence. AVANCE has proven through this Model Approach astounding outcomes for poor vulnerable children: 90% of AVANCE children entering Kindergarten are rated as "Average" to "Way Above Average" for school readiness. (Over 1/3 of children in America enter Kindergarten unprepared) By third grade, AVANCE children are outperforming their peers at school, district and state levels evidenced by formal standardized testing. 94% of AVANCE children graduate from high school on time. 43% of AVANCE children graduating high school go onto complete college. This request is to support the ongoing activities of AVANCE Inc in the greater Corpus Christi area. AVANCE, Inc. is requesting \$500,000 for personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, and other related costs. The recipient of funds will be AVANCE, Inc., 118 N. Medina Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programs

The Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) Mentoring Programs engage at-risk youth in educational or recreational activities that support positive decision-making and enhance relationship skills, leading to a higher degree of academic involvement, achievement, and ultimately higher graduation rates. These funds will support our highly effective Mentoring Programs. It will be used to recruit, screen, train, match, evaluate, and support the children in our community in one-to-one mentoring relationships with caring, adult volunteers. The need for a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor in our community is great. Without the supportive presence of a role model who demonstrates an alternative, more positive way of life, the destructive behaviors children are facing today can become a pattern that is passed on from generation to generation. It costs approximately \$1,000 a year to serve a one-to-one mentoring relationship in the BBBS program. In comparison to the nearly \$40,000 a year it costs to keep a child in a juvenile detention facility, an investment in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' proven prevention program is an economically solid choice. Our organization will put federal taxpayer funding back into our community, providing the most at-risk children the support they so desperately need, but so desperately lack. Research proves that adults mentored as children in the BBBS program are better educated, wealthier, and more fulfilled than their peers, suggesting that Big Brothers Big Sisters can break the intergenerational cycles linked to poverty and delinquent behaviors. Our children become successful, contributing, and productive members of society. Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (BBBS) is requesting \$70,000 for salaries, supplies, equipment, travel, and other related costs. The recipient of funds will be Grants and Research Manager, 202 Baltimore Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78215.

Building Acquisition

Since opening its doors in April of 2008, Amistad Community Health Center has been renting 25% of an office building from HCA, Corporation for approximately \$8,000 per month. HCA, Corporation has recently offered Amistad the opportunity to purchase the entire building at a cost of \$175,000. The building is appraised at nearly \$600,000, and this is a generous offer and excellent opportunity for Amistad to expand its assets and services to the community. With 75.4% of Amistad's service population living at less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and 49.3% living at less than 100% FPL, the people Amistad serves are underserved and economically isolated. Purchasing the building will allow Amistad to provide medical services to a greater number of these medically underserved families and children in our community. Amistad Community Health Center is requesting \$250,000 for the building, closing, and ADA compliance improvement costs. The recipient of funds will be Amistad Community Health Center, 1533 Brownlee Blvd.

Don't METH with Texas

The project has successfully reduced the frequency of meth/other drugs in the community. The interventions provided were successful. Clients experienced improvements in their life quality, social support, health and employment. Project Vida conducted a presentation to the drug task force who raided a local meth house thereafter. The officers left project brochures. A husband and his wife found a brochure. They were meth addicts. They contracted the project and were admitted. They both ended up getting clean, staying clean, regaining custody of their children, and were both employed with stable housing at discharge. Multiply this story by 200. Don't METH with Texas is requesting \$500,000 for personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, and other related costs. The recipient of funds will be Don't METH with Texas, 907 Antelope St., Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

Early Scholars Academy

Significant numbers of children in the high poverty Texas Coastal Bend enter school without basic school readiness skills, leaving them unprepared for the demands of first grade and beyond. This contributes to poor student achievement and failure to graduate for many students. The school readiness of at least 10,800 participating children (annually), ages 4-5, will be improved through a sustained series of activities at a unique 16,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art early childhood discovery and learning center, the *Early Scholars Academy (ESA)*, being built in Corpus Christi and scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. The *ESA* will feature 14 interactive, thematic *discovery areas* designed to broaden children's horizons and provide a foundation for school readiness. Children and their teachers/caregivers will visit the *ESA* multiple times during their two preschool years in small groups led by early childhood specialists. A research-based curriculum aligned with state standards will guide the activities, which will be integrated with preschool classrooms and settings to provide a highly enriched experience to maximize the effect on school readiness. The impacts on children will include improvement in cognitive skills, such as oral language development, math, science, emergent reading and writing, technology, and social studies. The project will be continuously evaluated for effectiveness in improving student achievement and will be modeled statewide and

nationally. Funding for the building and 7 of the 14 discovery centers has been secured. This request is for \$2.08 million to complete the 7 unfunded discovery areas and for first-year startup operating costs. The Fighting to Rid Gangs in America Foundation, Inc. is requesting \$2,076,088 for personnel, supplies, equipment, utilities, and other related costs. The recipient of funds will be Fighting to Rid Gangs in America Foundation, Inc, 2121 Mary St., Corpus Christi, TX, 78405.

Hispanic Active Relationships Project (Nonprofit is named: “HARP for Families”)

The foundation of a strong, safe community lies in the skill of its people to get along. Without this skill, people cannot hold jobs, raise healthy children, and feel safe on their streets. HARP FOR FAMILIES serves youth, adults, Spanish or English speaking with 8 or more class hours of vital skills for communicating respectfully, managing stress and anger, resolving conflict without danger, making wise choices in partners and friends and for thinking positively to build connections at work and at home. Results are demonstrated through a reduction of violence even in incarceration settings, better attitudes and less volatility in local high school students, greater confidence in migrant-family college students. Parents report greater control of their emotions and better behaviors with their children. Inmates state that they are less angry, have greater control of their behavior and finally feel hope for themselves and their children. Military families gain tools needed to weather difficulties of deployments, parent alone and manage stress. The money-oriented classes, also offered, instill confidence, lessen power and control issues, enhance responsible spending and saving plans. An investment in services that provide these skills will help strengthen families, reduce family violence and violence in the workplace, reduce negative child outcomes, and even lessen crime rates. All are critical needs in the Rio Grande Valley. The education offered by HARP FOR FAMILIES can bring down overall costs associated with delinquency, out of wedlock childbirth, joblessness, divorce, crime and violence and in return create a safer healthier community and economy. The HARP for Families is requesting \$513,032 for personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, and other related expenses. The recipient of funds will be HARP for Families, 1601 E. Alton Gloor Bldg A. Brownsville Texas 78526

Institute for Human Health (IH²)

Health problems, issues, and concerns transcend disciplines and national boundaries. Human health is influenced by both local and external circumstances and experiences and is best addressed by cooperative actions and solutions. Global factors such as population growth, migration patterns, culture, economy, environment and policies (including health policies) influence their occurrence. To properly address global health challenges, it is necessary to recognize that the scientific discovery process required to address health issues must transcend individual disciplines; it must be comprehensive and interdisciplinary. It is proposed that the current Center for Biomedical Studies (CBS) at The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) be expanded to include public health initiatives that focus on global health. The new research entity will be renamed the Institute for Human Health (IH²) and will foster basic, translational, clinical and public health research. The IH² will integrate the expertise and resources of UTB scientists and health professionals together with national and international collaborators to effectively address and ameliorate the world's most pressing health issues. It will promote

interdisciplinary approaches and address the major health challenges that affect communities. The University of Texas at Brownsville is requesting \$684,400 for personnel, supplies, travel, and other related expenses. The recipient of funds will be The University of Texas at Brownsville, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

Institute for Innovation in Intercultural Education (IIIE)

Educational achievement of children at IIIE will be measured and analyzed, specifically in the areas of critical thinking, language, literacy, and special education (e.g. autism, learning disabilities). Assessment results will be used to design new models of teaching. In addition, health related information be presented to both students and their parents, specifically related to obesity, nutrition, diabetes, and brain function and development. The national significance of this project relates to research collection and the development of best practices related to teaching young, non-English speaking children in the areas of language and literacy, master teaching techniques to excel the teaching and learning process and a concentrated emphasis to critical national shortage areas of math, science and early childhood education. An online national clearinghouse for data collected on studies in teaching methods and best practices devoted to early childhood and intercultural education will have impact at all levels. IIIE is an evolving project for teaching excellence that has been working previously in areas including professional development of math and science teachers, early childhood, preparation of bilingual counselors, and other teaching professionals. The COE currently has a Center for Early Childhood Studies designed as a teaching site and to provide graduate students opportunities to implement research studies. IIIE will be able to provide additional opportunities and research expertise in implementing and designing research studies. The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College is requesting \$596,500 for personnel, supplies, equipment, and other related expenses. The recipient of funds will be The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

New Kitchen Construction

The funds will be used for the construction of a new 1800 SF kitchen, kitchen equipment and infrastructure at this center. This new facility will provide adequate and safe food preparation facilities at the emergency shelter to prepare meals for 140 children daily in a 24 hour residential program for unaccompanied alien children. Currently meals are prepared at the kitchen and transported to a dining area that is separate from the existing kitchen. IES' new kitchen facility building and infrastructure will replace a 40 year plus old facility that has major structural, utility and kitchen space issues that cannot be modified in its present location. IES is the largest employer with 152+ employees (directors, managers, clinicians, caseworkers, teachers, teacher aides, child care workers, medical assistants, maintenance, cooks, clerical, trainer and other support staff) in the community serving up to 160 UAC in a 24 hour residential facility. An energy efficient, safe and functional kitchen is necessary to meet and sustain the present and growing demands of the program and its employees. The International Educational Services, Inc. (IES) is requesting \$292,750.00 for building construction, equipment and site costs. The recipient of funds will be International Educational Services, 32120 FM 1847 Los Fresnos, TX 78566.

Project GRAD

Project GRAD provides technical, curricular, and professional development support to its partner school districts around a pre-K-16 comprehensive model of reform that leads to the opportunity of guaranteed college scholarships for all graduates of GRAD high schools. GRAD accomplishes its goals by (1) making funding awards to subcontractors, which are designated in the HEA legislation as “Project GRAD Programs;” (2) providing technical assistance, support, and evaluation services to these subcontractors; and (3) “promot[ing] the establishment of new programs to implement such integrated education reform services.” GRAD’s mission is fully aligned with the DOE’s goal of ensuring a quality public education for students in economically disadvantaged communities so that high school graduation and college attendance rates dramatically increase, thereby helping both local communities, regions, states, and the nation. GRAD’s activities are an ongoing expense, authorized for five years under HEA. Project GRAD USA is requesting \$27,000,000 for salaries, equipment, facilities, training, and other related expenses. The recipient of funds will be Project GRAD USA, 4265 San Felipe Ste 900, Houston, TX 77027.

Remote Monitoring of Diabetics for Better Health Outcomes and Lower Costs

Information and communication technology continues to extend the reach of how and where care is delivered. This project would allow 300-500 27th Congressional District diabetics to acquire home monitoring devices and cell phone operated disease management programs. Sustainable reductions in costly medical interventions including reducing the use of the emergency department are expected. In order to change behaviors of persons with chronic disease such as diabetes, new methods of interaction and support are required. Levering information and communication technology to maintain contact with the care team, using remote monitoring to transfer vital sign and other data should result in lowered use of emergency departments, hospital admissions and re-admissions as well as improvements to personal health status. Project funding would be used to acquire home monitoring devices, cell phones and cell phone air time as well as a disease registry. Benefits of this program include: (1) improving communication between patient and provider for better compliance; (2) reductions in the use of high cost care settings such as emergency departments; (3) fewer admissions due to diabetic complications; and, (4) access to health information in an electronic format for improving access to care. The Christus Spohn Health System is requesting \$300,000 for cell phone subscriptions, marketing and recruiting, and interfaces to electronic medical records. The recipient of funds will be Christus Spohn Health System, 2606 Hospital Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78405.

Solutions for Border Health and Border Security

Since 2001, UTB/TSC has assembled a nucleus of resources and expertise in the Department of Biological Sciences and its associated Center for Biomedical Studies to counter biological, toxicological and environmental threats. UTB/TSC is now poised to become a major information hub; a provider of knowledge, expertise and resources to solve the challenges of new emerging and re-emerging natural or man-made threats to the health and environment and economy of this region. The establishment of a Research

Center was followed by the establishment of the Laboratory for Border Health and Security through generous support by the National Institute of Health. A recent outside review indicated that the laboratory can and should play a larger role in identifying, mitigating and prevention of major biological threats posed by the constant movement of people, animals and plants across an international border. To fulfill this mandate, critical resources are urgently needed. Additional technical support personnel to the core facilities, three faculty lines with expertise in (1) virology, (2) toxicology (3) ecological and environmental assessment, and acquire major equipment such as mass spectrometers, high-performance liquid chromatographs, and high-throughput analyzers for proteomics and genomics are all needed. The resulting new Center also complements our goal to acquire resources and expertise in bioinformatics and is further complemented by expertise in epidemiology provided by the University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston, School of Public Health. Furthermore, the laboratory will establish close ties with the CDC, Texas Department of Health, local health officials and local health providers. The cost associated of this project are negligible when compared to the potential cost of a global flu pandemic estimated by the World Bank to cost \$3 trillion and cut world GDP by 5 percent thus sending fragile economies into a deep recession (Swine Flu 'Hits' Markets; Fears Of Pandemic; Reuters 27 Apr 2009). The University of Texas at Brownsville is requesting \$1,884,000 for personnel, equipment, supplies and other related expenses. The recipient of funds will be The University of Texas at Brownsville, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

St. Edward's University College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

St. Edward's currently recruits and enrolls approximately 35 freshman migrant students annually through CAMP. These first-year students join 110 or more sophomores, juniors and seniors who entered through CAMP. Freshman year assistance covers tuition, fees, books, living expenses, transportation, health insurance and a modest stipend. For sophomores through seniors, the university guarantees continued full tuition support for students who maintain satisfactory academic progress. The funding will also continue and expand Bridge to College Success (BTCS) initiated in Summer 2009 with a two-year grant from the Walmart Foundation. BTCS provides CAMP freshmen and first-generation students with early intervention through an intensive summer program before freshman year through both group instruction and one-on-one tutoring in English, Math and reading comprehension. The intensive summer program helps students overcome past academic deficiencies and avoid placement in non-credit classes. More than 95% of our CAMP students are Hispanic and come from Texas; more than 85% come from the South Texas Valley region where there are exceptionally high concentrations of migrant families and income is among the lowest in the nation. 21% of CAMP students are from the Texas 27th Congressional District. School demographics for this region (reveal a student population that is 98% Hispanic, 87% economically disadvantaged, 27% English Language Learners, and 78% potential first-generation, college bound students. CAMP students' persistence to graduation far exceeds the national average graduation rate of 45% for first-generation college students. The six-year graduation rate for our three most recent CAMP cohorts (2001, 2002 and 2003) is 57.5%. St. Edward's University is requesting \$1,000,000 for scholarships and an extension of an existing program. The

recipient of funds will be St. Edward's University, 3001 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78704.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville Animal Research Facility

Many wildlife species are the reservoir for numerous diseases of concern for human health and the bio security of our livestock industries. The unique location of the TAMUK with their centers of excellence in wildlife and the Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy create an opportunity to enhance the lives of people by providing the research needed to protect their health, businesses and the unique environment in south Texas. Texas A&M University-Kingsville is requesting \$1,000,000 for animal facilities and research expenses. The recipient of funds will be Texas A&M-Kingsville, MSC 156, Kingsville, Texas 78363.

The Texas Center for Border and Transnational Studies

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College (UTB/TSC) seeks to establish a Center of Excellence for the study of the U.S.-Mexico Border. The mission of the Texas Center for Border and Transnational Studies is to coordinate and conduct original research on the lower Texas-Mexico border by supporting faculty and students in their research and by fostering collaboration with external international institutions, faculty fellows and graduate students interested in conducting border research for the expressed purpose of problem solving and evaluation. The Center seeks to provide data informing critical policy decisions made on or about border issues and to develop a curriculum supporting a Certificate and undergraduate and graduate programs in Border Studies. This Center proposal looks forward to the development of a new paradigm for border studies, based on applied research intended to assist in the solution of social and economic problems. It examines why the Texas-Mexico border from Laredo to Brownsville will serve as the Center's initial geo-political focus for research and this is supported by the demographic projections for this region as are anticipated from the 2010 Census. The University of Texas at Brownsville is requesting \$357,000 for salaries and equipment. The recipient of funds will be The University of Texas at Brownsville, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

Texas Mathworks-Rio Grande Valley Math Initiative

Providing students from all backgrounds with the mathematics foundation and preparation they need to make contributions in the areas of math, science and technology is a critical state and national challenge. Texas Mathworks has a proven effective model for engaging and retaining students' interest in math and science. The critical issue is how to prepare all students for success in algebra and higher-level mathematics. This project addresses that problem head-on with an integrated approach that combines summer math camps, teacher training, and curriculum development. The teacher training component of Mathworks can dramatically improve the level of mathematics for students throughout Texas and the country. Lasara Independent School District is requesting \$148,608 for salaries, supplies and materials. The recipient of funds will be Lasara Independent School District PO Box 57, 11932 Jones St, Lasara, TX 78561.

Transition Outreach and Connections Program (TOC)

President Obama's plan to withdraw all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010 means approximately 90,000 troops will return in six months. This massive demobilization demands significant transitional services for these personnel. Since the southern part of Texas is home to more than one million veterans, many of whom are Hispanic, UMOS' project will target Texas' 27th Congressional district. According to the Women's Veterans Affairs Department, roughly 2 percent of Hispanics used VA healthcare or benefits last year, a statistic that has only risen to about 4 percent today. Those statistics, coupled with the rural nature of the region, make it clear that access to services is difficult for many separating military personnel and their families. Often times, the lengthy time for processing paperwork and the fact that these individuals move to locations other than the address listed upon their enlistment prevent them from accessing help. Additionally, according to the Report of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (July 2009), "there remains a perception among minority Veterans and their families that they are not provided services by the VA commensurate with those provided to majority Veterans." To address this growing need, UMOS' proposed Transition Outreach & Connections (TOC) program will inform and connect separating military personnel to available programs, services and benefits. The program will consist of social marketing to create awareness among this population; community outreach sessions and workshops; and a central telephonic/virtual call center to connect people to the appropriate private, public or military/veterans-based resources. United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) is requesting \$500,000 for salaries, supplies and program administration. The recipient of funds will be United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), 2701 S. Chase Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53207.